IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE THE APPLICATION OF:

Cotton et al.

Grp. Art. Unit: 2834

Application No: 09/783,367

Examiner: Medley, P.

Filing Date: February 14, 2001

Date: December 8, 2003

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR

Atty. Dkt. No: 99-617

ADJUSTING THE PRE-LOAD OF

A SPRING

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO SECOND OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2003, please consider the following amendment and remarks. This response includes the following items, which each begin on a separate sheet:

- List of Claims 1.
- 2. Remarks

12/12/2003 WABRHAM1 00000051 09783367

01 FC:1201

172.00 OP